

**2020 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM
INCENTIVES PROGRAM
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)
MARCH 27, 2020**

1. Q. What soil types are eligible for the HSP Incentives Program?
A. All soils types are eligible for the HSP Incentives Program as long as the program requirements listed in the [2020 HSP Incentives RGA](#) are followed.
2. Q. Are the applications for the 2020 HSP Incentives Program accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis?
A. Yes, applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. PT on June 26, 2020 or until available funds are expended.
3. Q. Are there available resources to help farmers apply for the HSP Incentives grant?
A. Yes, please visit our HSP Incentives website located here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html> for a list of helpful resources. The HSP program also has technical assistance providers (link: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2020_HSP_Incentives-TAPWorkshops.pdf) that can provide one-on-one application help to farmers/ranchers for free.
4. Q. Is there a tool that calculates the GHG reductions?
A. Yes, please use the HSP COMET Planner tool located at <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/>.
5. Q. What is the definition of Priority Population?
A. Priority populations include the State's disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households. Disadvantaged communities are defined by CalEPA as the top 25 percent of communities experiencing disproportionate amounts of pollution, environmental degradation, and socioeconomic and public health conditions according to OEHHA's CalEnviroScreen tool. Low-income communities and households are those with incomes either at or below 80 percent of the statewide median or below a threshold designated as low-income by the Department of Housing and Community Development. For more information, please view the link provided: <http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/priority-populations>.
6. Q. How do applicants contact the HSP technical assistance providers?
A. A list of HSP technical assistance providers and their contact information can be found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2020_HSP_Incentives-TAPWorkshops.pdf.
7. Q. If an applicant is selected for a 2020 HSP Incentives grant, how long is the grant duration?
A. The 2020 HSP Incentives grant duration starts on the date of grant execution in 2020 and lasts until March 31, 2023.
8. Q. Will applicants that applied in 2018 be able to access their old application on the 2020 HSP application portal?
A. No.
9. Q. Does the application portal allow multiple assembly members, senate members and districts to be added in cases where multiple fields/APNs may fall in different districts?
A. Yes, pair the districts and assembly/senate members with their respective fields.

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10. Q. Is the 2020 HSP Incentives application offered in other languages besides English?
A. Currently, we only have our application in English. For language assistance, please contact your local Technical Assistance Provider who may be able to help.
11. Q. Does the CDFA HSP RePlan tool allow two non-contiguous (parallel) hedgerows to be drawn?
A. Yes, however, they must be drawn and labeled as 2 separate fields.
12. Q. Are cannabis farmers eligible for HSP funds?
A. For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 77911.
13. Q. Can farmers make their own mulch?
A. Yes, however, if on-farm produced mulch is used, farmers must provide a farm log documenting the mulch source, total estimated mulch materials by volume or weight, and application rates.
14. Q. If awarded an HSP Incentives grant, will there be any restrictions put on the property that would reduce property rights?
A. No.
15. Q. Is the HSP Incentives grant considered taxable income?
A. No, Healthy Soils Program is reimbursement program and should not be considered as taxable income.
16. Q. Are small farms eligible for the HSP Incentives grant?
A. Yes. The HSP Incentives application is open to all farms and ranches. There is no acreage minimum or maximum for farms.
17. Q. What answers should I provide for the baseline data? How about new farms which may not have 3-year history?
A. Cropping history refers to all crops that were grown in the fields/APNs in the past three years; management history refers to any management practices (such as compost application, tillage, cover crop, mulching, hedgerow, etc.) that were implemented in the fields/APNs in the past three years. For new farms, please provide as much information you have learned from the previous landowner. Applications without necessary information for reviewers to determine practice eligibility may not be selected.
18. Q. If we want to use a lower application rate for compost application, how should we prepare the application?
A. In the COMET-Planner tool, the highest application rate is set for all compost application practices for estimated HSP payment for the project term. If you plan to use an approved compost application rate that is not the maximum, you can enter the actual acreage for compost application in the comet-planner even though the payment in the COMET-Planner report may exceed \$100,000.00. You can get the actual payment for compost application using the

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formula: $\$50 \text{ per ton} \times \text{application rate} \times \text{acreage} \times 3 \text{ years}$. Make sure in the application website, the total Funding Requested for proposed HSP Project (\$) does not exceed \$100,000.00.

19. Q. Do we have to test our own compost? If yes, what is to be tested? Is compost application required to implement for three years in a row?
- A. Yes, if on-farm produced compost is to be used, the recipient needs to provide a laboratory report including analytical results such as carbon and nitrogen ratio for finished compost as well as a composting log. If purchased compost is to be used, the recipient can request the report from the composting facility. Yes, compost application must be implemented once per project year during the project term.
20. Q. Who certifies compost? Where are they listed?
- A. Composting facilities are certified by state and local authorities. Certified composting facilities can be found at <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/Directory?facilityType=Composting&operationalStatus=Active®ulatoryStatus=Permitted&autoBind=True>.
21. Q. I submitted an application and the application says stage unspecified. What does this mean?
- A. This message indicates that your application submission was received and is currently under review.